

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /057 W

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O R 051235Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9702

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: FURTHER ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US ATTITUDES TOWARD INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 8935

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEWS AND MEETINGS OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS, MRS GANDHI HAS REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO ALLEGED FOREIGN AND SPECIFICALLY AMERICAN CRITICISM OF HER ACTIONS IN DECLARING THE EMERGENCY. TWICE SHE SPOKE OF PRESS CRITICISM, BUT ONCE SHE LEFT OUT THE WORD "PRESS." SHE ALSO TALKED ABOUT "OUT-SIDE AGENCIES" CONTRIBUTING TO THE VICIOUS ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED IN THE COUNTRY BEFORE THE EMERGENCY. THE PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT IN AN EDITIRIAL ALLEGED THAT THE JUST-BANNED RSS HAD ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH "CERTAIN ANTI-INDIAN VESTED INTERESTS." END SUMMARY.

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1. IN HER INTERVIEW WITH A TIMES OF INDIA CORRESPONDENT

PUBLISHED JULY 4, MRS GANDHI REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A "SERIOUS BREAKDOWN" HAD SHE NOT ACTED. SHE SAID, "THE SAME FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHICH ARE NOW SHEDDING TEARS OVER OUR FIRM STEPS WOULD HAVE THEN GLOATED OVER OUR WEAKNESS. AFTER ALL, DO NOT FORGET THAT THEY ARE GREAT SUPPORTERS AND ADMIRERS OF REGIMES THAT GET RESULTS BUT DO NOT EVEN CLAIM Z HAVE DEMOCRACY. FOR THEM, SOME COUNTRIES CAN DO NO WRONG, BUT INDIA CAN DO NOTHING RIGHT. EVEN IN THE LAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS THEY HAVE SPREAD BASELESS RUMORS WITHOUT ANY EFFORT TO CHECK THE TRUTH." IN DEFENDING THE EMERGENCY TO A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS WHICH CALLED ON HER JULY 3, SHE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN INDIA HAD COME TO MEAN FREEDOM TO ATTACK HER -- A KIND OF FREEDOM WHICH DID NOT EXIST IN ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE USA AND THE UK. THEN ON JULY 4, SHE REPORTEDLY TOLD THE YOUNG LAWYERS' CONGRESS THAT THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN CRITICIZING INDIA FOR CURBING DEMOCRACY WERE "THOSE WHICH WERE COMPETING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN GOING TOWARD CHINA" AND HAD SUPPORTED GENERAL YAHYA KHAN'S MILITARY RULE IN PAKISTAN AND HIS SUPPRESSION OF BANGLADESH. "THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD LOOK AT THEMSELVES FIRST RATHER THAN SERMON US," SHE SAID. (THE PATRIOT COMMENTED AFTER REPORTING THIS QUOTE THAT "THOUGH SHE DID NOT SAY IT IN SO MANY WORDS, SHE OBVIOUSLY HAD IN MIND THE ADVERSE REACTION OF SOME OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, OVER THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.")

2. THE REPORTS OF THE JULY 3 MEETING WITH THE JOURNALISTS ALSO SAY THAT MRS GANDHI BLAMED A SECTION OF THE PRESS FOR HELPING TO BUILD UP A VICIOUS ATMOSPHERE IN THE COUNTRY AND "ADDED THAT OUTSIDE AGENCIES HAD ALSO CONTRIBUTED IN THE CREATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE." (THIS IS LESS EXPLICIT THAT THE REMARKS OF UMMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT REPORTED IN THE REFTEL AND, IN THE CONTEXT REPORTED, COULD REFER TO EITHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR THE THE FOREIGN PRESS.) THE PATRIOT JULY 5 IN ITS EDITORIAL SUPPORTING THE BANNING OF THE RSS SAID "IN RECENT TIMES THIS CONSPIRATORIAL GROUP ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH CERTAIN ANTI-INDIA FOREIGN VESTED INTERESTS AND EVEN BEGAN TRYING TO OBSTRUCT ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT PROMISED DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS TO THE PEOPLE."

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**TAGS:** PFOR, IN, US, (GANDHI, INDIRA)  
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